

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

## *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, July 2, 2012, marks the sesquicentennial of the first Morrill Act, signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862; and,

*Whereas*, The original Morrill Act provided federal support and an incentive to states to establish public higher education institutions for instruction of agriculture, engineering, military sciences, and the liberal arts to the children of common people described in the original legislation; and,

*Whereas*, South Dakota State University opened in 1881 as the original land-grant institution for Dakota Territory. The Morrill Act opened the doors of colleges and universities to all with the ability and will to learn, irrespective of heredity, occupation, or economic status, as described in the centennial proclamation from President John F. Kennedy in 1962; and,

*Whereas*, Federal Legislation in 1994 designated tribal colleges as land-grant institutions. Oglala Lakota College, Sinte Gleska University, and Sisseton Wahpeton College are recognized as members of the land-grant organization; and,

*Whereas*, South Dakota State University and the state's tribal colleges share a commitment for access to public higher education for all people; and,

*Whereas*, The land-grant system of higher education has been recognized as the nation's largest single source of human capital. Land-grant universities have a long history educating our nation's scientists, engineers, community leaders and military officers. Land-grant institutions work closely with state governments, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other federal agencies actively engaged in South Dakota; and,

*Whereas*, South Dakota State University will lead the state's celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Morrill Act:

*Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 2, 2012,

### ***MORRILL ACT DAY***

in South Dakota, as a day to recognize the sesquicentennial of the Morrill Act of 1862 at South Dakota State University in Brookings.

*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourteenth Day of June in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twelve.



*Dennis Daugaard*  
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

*Jason M. Gant*  
Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State